BOMBAY COURIER EXTRAORDINARY.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1842.

The barque *Sesostris* arrived at Madras on the 8th instant. She has brought intelligence from Macao to the 5th ultimo. Sir Henry Pottinger returned to Hong-kong in Her Majesty's Ship *Blenheim* on the 1st of last month. The following extracts from the *Canton Press* of the 5th February contain the latest intelligence of the movements of the expedition. Instead of the British having evacuated Ningpo, as was at one time apprehended, we are gratified to find, that the force has been actively employed in capturing three district cities in the same province.

CANTON PRESS,—FEBRUARY 5.

Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, Sir Henry Pottinger, accompanied by Mr. Morrison, arrived at Hongkong in H. M. S. *Blenheim*, Capt. Herbert, on the 1st of this month, having left Chusan on the 24th January and Amoy on the 29th. We publish below a Circular issued yesterday by H. E. relating to the movement made by part of H. M. Forces on Yu-yaou. The object of His Excellency's visit, which it is said will be of several weeks duration, is of course only guessed at; probably the organisation of affairs at Hongkong will engage his attention, and it is likely that the Chinese at Canton will for the present at least escape punishment for their infraction of the truce in building fortifications, and obstructing the river. No news of any interest have been brought from the north by the *Blenheim*, as far as we have been able to learn, but there are said to be no indications whatever, that may lead to the supposition that the Chinese are inclined to come to any settlement. No overtures of any kind are said as yet to have been made to H. M. Plenipotentiary, and although a number of high officers were known to be at Hang-chow-foo, since fled to Sow-choo, no communication from them has been received. H. M. S. *Cornwallis*, Captain Richards, arrived at Chusan after the very short passage of only 21 days from Hongkong.

Another high Mandarin is said recently to have arrived at Canton, and we hear by the last accounts (of 3d inst.) that great activity was prevailing among the Chinese in finishing their fortifications. Everything however remained quiet, and if the Chinese contemplate any aggression, that they will probably not make any movement, till after the New year holydays. New year's day is on the 10th of this month.

A good many runaway European sailors of different nations have lately been engaged by the Chinese, to teach them, it is said, the gun exercise. The promised monthly pay by which these men have been deluded into Chinese service is 50 dollars and has overcome all scruples or even reflection. We doubt not that the Chinese will soon become aware of having made a bad bargain, for of the majority of these sailors it may be supposed that they know little or nothing of gunnery, and demands will be made upon their skill which they will be unable to answer. But independent of the dissatisfaction the sailors are likely to give their employers, they will find themselves in an awkward position should fighting in this neighbourhood recommence; for in case of the fortification being attacked by the English, it is, judging from past events, more than probable that the Chinese will soon abandon their posts; should the foreign gunners follow their example, they will draw upon themselves the wrath and vengeance of the authorities, and their lives may be made to answer for the cowardice of the Chinese; if on the other hand the gunners remain on their post, they are as likely to lose their lives—such considerations however have proved too weak, opposed to the temptation of 50 dollars per month!

The French Frigate *Erigone*, went last week to the Bogue, whence her commander Capt. Cêcille, proceeded to Canton. It was said at Canton that the Taou tae was deputed to call on him at the residence of an American merchant, and to invite him to an interview with the Vice Roy of Canton, and other high authorities, in the City. Up to the last account from Canton, this visit had not been made, but was expected to take place in a day or two. Whatever the object of the Chinese may be in thus shewing attention to the Commander of a French Frigate, it is evident that their pretensions to seclusion from, and superiority over, the rest of mankind, have already, in consequence of the events during the two last years, been a good deal modified, for they now ask as a favor a visit from a foreign officer, which not many years ago would have been altogether refused, or only granted after much delay, and frequent exchanges of "Chops."

CIRCULAR.

To HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SUBJECTS IN CHINA.

Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China has the pleasure to announce to Her Majesty's Subjects in China of Yupao, Tsikee, and Funghwa, distant respectively 40, 20, and 30 miles, from Ningpo, have been lately visited and temporarily occupied by detachments of Her Majesty's combined Forces.

The Chinese Government having thrown garrison into the Cities in question, and given out that the object in so doing was, to encourage (or perhaps, more correctly speaking, to intimidate) the inhabitants of Ningpo and the surrounding districts to withhold obedience to the British Authorities, and likewise to deter them, as far as possible, from furnishing Provisions and supplies, it was resolved by their Excellencies, the Naval and Military Commander-in-Chief, to take an early opportunity of dislodging those garrisons; and, on the weather (which had been extremely wet in the early part of December) becoming frosty and favorable for operations, the necessary arrangements were completed for carrying that resolution into effect.

The "Sesostris," "Nemesis," and "Phlegethon," Steamers, carrying about 700 men of all arms, and towing a number of Boats, weighed from their positions at Ningpo on the morning of the 27th Dec., and proceeded up the River. The former Ship, owing to her greater draft of water, was obliged to bring up about two thirds of the way to Yuyao, off which place the two smaller vessels anchored late in the afternoon; when the troops landed immediately, under the personal directions of His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Hugh Gough, K. C. B., and, having taken possession of a small battery mounting four guns (which the Chinese had thrown up to enfilade the approaching reach of the river, but which they did not venture to defend), were lodged for the night in a large temple or Josshouse, situated on a hill which overlooked the town at the distance of less than half a mile. At daylight on the morning of the 28th, His Excellency, the Naval Commander-in Chief, disembarked with the seamen and marines, and preparations were made for escalading, when some of the people came out and declared, that the garrison (stated to have consisted of 1200 regulars and an equal number of militia) had quitted the town during the night, and that the gates were open. Our troops in one division, and the seamen and marines in another, accordingly marched in, and separated at the Southern Gate, to go round the town, along the ramparts. When the naval division had advanced part of the way, a fire of jinjals and matchlocks was opened on it, by a considerable body of Chinese soldiers, which had taken post outside the walls, at a spot near the N. W. angle, where they were covered by a deep canal. It unavoidably occupied some little time for Her Majesty's forces to gain egress from the town by the Northern Gate, leading over the canal, and in the interim the enemy had decamped across the country! They were hotly pursued for 7 or 8 miles, during which numbers of them threw away their arms and heavy, clothes. A military position on which they retreated, about 5 miles from Yuyao, was burned, and a very extensive barrack (Temple), close to that town, containing a magazine of gunpowder, and great quantities of arms, clothing, and other munitious of war, was subsequently set fire to and utterly destroyed. Twenty eight prisoners were taken, amongst whom were several subordinate officers, and it is believed that from 75 to 100 of the enemy were killed and wounded during the affair. Had they only stood to allow Her Majesty's forces to close with them, not a man could have escaped: but their local knowledge of the roads, combined with the fact of the whole country being knee-deep with frozen snow (which covered up and concealed the paths), gave them a decided advantage over their pursuers in their flight.

On the 29th, the City was examined, and an immense Public Granary of Rice discovered, and given to the Inhabitants to carry away. On the 30th, the small Steamers descended the River, and rejoined the "Sesostris" the three vessels anchored that afternoon on the nearest point to the City of Tsikee, which lies between 4 and 5 miles from the left bank, and which was found on the following morning (the 31st) to be deserted by the Chinese Troops, and all the Civil Authorities. The Public Buildings were here destroyed, as far as that could be done without endangering the Town; the population to take the Grain from the Government Granary, which was very large and quite full of Rice; and the combined Forces having re-embarked the steamers returned to Ningpo on the evening of the 31st of December.

It affords Her Majesty's Plenepotentiary extreme gratification to add, that not a single casualty occurred during these movements. Mr. Midshipman Lock of H. M. Ship "Blenheim," was struck on the foot by a spent Jinjal Ball, but fortunately escaped with a slight contusion. The cold was intense during the whole period; the Thermometer ranging at night 10 and 12 degrees below the freezing point; but, notwithstanding this fact and the unavoidable exposure, the Troops, Seamen, and Marines all came back in the highest health and spirits.

An unfavourable break in the weather prevented the intended movement on Funghwa being put into execution until the 10th instant. On that morning, the "Phlegethon" and "Nemesis" started from Ningpo, and were brought up by a bridge across the River about noon. The land Forces, with the Lieut. General commanding, here landed, whilst the Seamen and Marines, under His Excellency the Admiral, went some miles further up the River in boats. The two divisions arrived simultaneously at the City of Funghwa about dusk, and found it deserted by the Chinese Authorities and Troops. The same steps as were adopted at Tsikee with regard to the Public Buildings and Granaries were next morning, adopted here, and the combined Forces returned to the Steamers, on the afternoon of the 11th, and to Ningpo early on the 12th instant.

Although these operations are of no moment considered in a military point of view, yet their moral and political effects is highly important, and on that account Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary deems it expedient to make the result of them public. They evince our irresistible power, as well as extraordinary forbearance so far as the people are concerned; and it has been ascertained, that such was the consternation, on the news of the descent on Yuyao reaching the Provincial Capital of Hang-chow-foo (distant above 100 miles), that the Imperial Commissioners and other high Chinese Officers fled from that City to Soochow, 90 miles further North.

The "*Phlegethon*" Steamer, and "*Bentinck*" Brig of War, have just proceeded to examine and reconnoitre the Bay of Hong-chow-foo and the Port of Chapoo.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Dated on Board H. M. S. *Blenheim*,
at Sea, on the 24th of January, 1842.

(Signed) HENRY POTTINGER,
H. M. Plenipotentiary.

A private letter dated Hong Kong, 31st January, received by the *Sesostris* adds but little to our information from other sources, but gives a sad detail of sickness among the Native troops there, chiefly owing their being inadequately protected against the cold of an uncongenial climate. Although the three coldest months of the winter had then passed, not a single native soldier had slept under any thing but a mat and thatch roof. Barracks have been building, it is true, but at the time when most wanted they have been unfinished and uninhabitable. The consequence has been a repetition of the mortality of Chusan, though happily on a smaller scale. The volunteers lost 11 men in January, and 10 in December; they were at the above date 106 strong, of which 58 were on the sick list, the disease being of a nature their constitutions could never entirely get over. The 37th Regiment were better off in comparison, but they had 120 sick out of a strength of 360 or 370 men. These are matters which we trust the Plenipotentiary will look to on his arrival—they indicate sad negligence somewhere.—*Spectator, March 9.*

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